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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/573,569	12/14/1995	HUNEIN F. MAASSAB		5671

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EXAMINER

PARKIN, JEFFREY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1648

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/573,569

Applicant(s)

MAASSAB ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,7,8,12,19,20,22,23 and 25-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,4,5,7,8,19,20,22,25 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12,23,27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Office Action

37 C.F.R. § 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 25 October, 2001, has been entered.

Status of the Claims

2. New claim 28 was submitted in the amendment accompanying the RCE request. Applicants are reminded that claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 19, 20, 22, 25, and 26 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention, the requirement having been traversed in Paper No. 9. Claims 12, 23, 27, and 28 are currently under examination.

35 U.S.C. § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 12 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cox et al. (1988), for the reasons of record

clearly set forth in Paper Nos. 11, 17, and 24. It is noted that Applicants did not file any arguments with the response. As previously set forth, this teaching discloses a vaccine comprising an influenza A viral reassortant comprising nucleotides encoding the HA (wild-type), NA (wild-type), PB1 (cold-adapted), PA (cold-adapted), M (cold-adapted), and PB2 (including SEQ ID NO.: 15) polypeptides. These nucleotide sequences were linked in such a manner as to allow packaging of the reassorted polynucleotides into the virion.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and potential 35

U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

7. Claims 23 and 28, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (1988) in view of Maassab et al. (1982). Applicants' response did not contain any arguments. As previously set forth, Cox et al. (1988) provides methods for the production of live attenuated influenza A vaccines by genetic reassortment with a cold-adapted mutant. Reassortant viruses containing HA and NA genes from strains H1N1 and H3N2 were disclosed. This teaching additionally discloses that five or six internal genes were derived from the ca A/Ann Arbor/6/60 parental strain. Maassab et al. (1982) teaches that reassortants comprising six genes derived from one strain and two surface proteins derived from the wild-type parental strain were generated and that these viruses were attenuated and genetically stable (see abstract). The intranasal inoculation of the a vaccine composition comprising this strain was also described. This reassortant was unable to replicate in lung tissue and grew to low titers in the nasal turbinates as compared to wild-type. Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to produce a live Influenza A vaccine using cold-adapted parental strains and to incorporate these properties into a clinically relevant strain by mating and reassortant technology. One of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation of succeeding because Cox and colleagues provide those mutations that are responsible for the cold-adapted phenotype. One of ordinary skill in the art could incorporate these changes into a helper virus to produce a safe, attenuated, vaccine strain.

Correspondence

8. Correspondence related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers

must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Official communications should be directed toward one of the following Group 1600 fax numbers: (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014. Informal communications may be submitted directly to the Examiner through the following fax number: (703) 308-4426. Applicants are encouraged to notify the Examiner prior to the submission of such documents to facilitate their expeditious processing and entry.


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 308-2227. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, James Housel or Laurie Scheiner, can be reached at (703) 308-4027 or (703) 308-1122, respectively. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1648

24 January, 2003



JAMES HOUSEL 3/3/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600